are transferred/shifted in their ambulance to Safdarjung Hospital casualty;

(b) if so, the number of such cases including serious, emergency cases shifted to Safdarjung Hospital during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the number of cases of critically ill patients who died in the shifting process, during the above period;

(d) whether Casualty department of Safdarjung Hospital is provided with specialists and required equipment to save the critically ill patients by timely treatment;

(e) whether vital equipment like CT Scan, Ultra-sound etc., remain out of order in the Emergency Department and patients are advised to go to private institutions in critical stage, for their tests; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) All accident victims brought to AIIMS casualty are resuscitated at AIIMS Casualty and in the event of non-availability of beds are referred to other hospitals including the Safdarjang Hospital.

(b) The Institute maintains the copies of the record of medical advice in respect of the patients including those referred to Safdarjang Hospital or other Government Hospitals. But these figures are not complied for statistical purpose. On an average 8-15 cases per day are referred from the Institute to Safdarjang Hospitals due to non-availability of beds in the Institute.

(c) The deaths during the transit of the patients from the Institute to other hospitals are not reported and thus records are not available. Such cases are rare because no critically ill/serious patient is referred to any other hospital before they are stabilised.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. On occasional instances when equipments are temporarily out of order, the patients are referred to other Government Hospitals.

[Translation]

Land-Route to Myanmar

3460. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government are making efforts with Myanmar Government for providing facility of visa to Indian citizens for travelling by road to Myanmar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard keeping in view the close proximity of Indians with the people of Indian origin in Myanmar?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (d) The question of permitting travel by road into Myanmar had been taken up with authorities of that country. The Government of Myanmar have conveyed that at present overland movement by road is not feasible.

[English]

Privatisation of Education System

3461. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to Privatise Education System thereby allowing the private Entrepreneurs to open Universities, Engineering Colleges, Medical Colleges and other Technical Institutions;

(b) if so, the details of the policy of the Government and the time scheduled for the implementation of such policy;

(c) if not, whether the Government have any proposal to open University, Engineering Colleges and Medical Colleges in any part of the country to solve the disparities;

(d) whether the Government have received any proposal from the State of Orissa for opening a new University/Engineering/Medical Colleges; and

(e) if so, the steps, the Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) Privatisation connotes transfer of control, fully or partially, in respect of institutions or enterprises existing under the Government to private parties. Government has no intention to resort to privatisation. Establishment of Universities in the country require either a specific or general enabling legislation. A Bill entitled "The Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Bill, 1995" is pending consideration in the Rajya Sabha.

(d) and (e) A proposal to establish a Central University in Orissa was received. Central Advisory Board on Education had recommended that in view of severe constraints of financial resources, Government should exercise restraint in setting up more Central Universities.